

# Black Power file for Maudling

By PETER HARVEY and JOHN CUNNINGHAM

The Home Office was last night studying a Special Branch preliminary report on the strength and activities of the Black Power movement.

The Home Secretary, Mr Maudling, called for the report after Sunday's clash between police and Black Power demonstrators at Maida Vale. He will have a complete dossier within 48 hours.

The Special Branch has had the movement under observation for more than a year. Until last Sunday detectives tended to regard it as more of a potential nuisance than a gangster.

Police now regard Black Power as, at least, worthy of extremely tight surveillance and they are not shrugging off firebrand statements made since Sunday by movement leaders and officials of other coloured people's associations.

## Campaign rumours

The report recommends that more men are detailed to work with the squads responsible for keeping an eye on such organisations. Details about Black Power leaders and a breakdown of the movement's membership are included.

Patterns of behaviour, the formation of "underground" cells in areas such as Notting Hill, and the steady growth of a militant, anti-police attitude are described in detail.

Police say that in recent weeks Notting Hill and other areas with a high coloured population have been alive with rumours of a campaign designed to strike back at the police. Many coloured people believe the police have deliberately adopted a "get-tough" policy and have been urging retaliation.

Mr Maudling will have talks

with officials of the Metropolitan Police and the Home Office Division of Constabularies once he has the full report.

## No minority

The secretary of the West Indian Standing Conference, Mr Jeff Crawford, warned yesterday that policemen might be killed if action was not taken to end conflict between black people and police.

Mr Crawford said this was not an extremist minority view. Black people generally feared violence was inevitable because they were being harassed by police, and felt hopelessness over the redress of complaints.

Mr Crawford blamed the

magistrates' courts and described them as "protection rackets for the police." Very few blacks bothered to engage solicitors for court cases because the odds were overwhelmingly against them.

Tension would be reduced if complaints against police were investigated by inquiry panels—including lawyers and blacks—and not by the police.

The Police Federation rejected Mr Crawford's accusations. Sergeant Leslie Male, vice-chairman of the federation's joint central committee, said: "It is unfortunate if a minority who have the law applied to them feel they are being victimised, because they are not. If they break the law, they have to be dealt with."